THE UNITED STATES
KARATE ALLIANCE
P.O. Box 8643
Albuquerque, NM 87198

UNITED STATES KARATE ALLIANCE

BUSHIDO BULLETIN

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Directors: James H. Hawkes & Dr. David Jordan

BULLOCK, VENSON, DUPAQUIER, & MICHAEL TITLE DEFENDERS AT THE 40TH USKA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 2003 World Championships look to be quite a memorable event. As preparations are made to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the USKA World Championships, fond memories are brought back quickly to our minds.

There will be a special slide show presentation after the Awards Ceremony on Saturday evening. For a "blast from the past." This year's Award Ceremony will emphasize the competitor's many accomplishments as usual, however, the names will be called out a little differently than in previous years. We will have a number of special guests this year, including many past World Champions.

John Pat Bullock

The Trias Memorial Award will also be presented at the Awards Ceremony. The Trias Memorial recipient is selected by the members of the Hall of Fame as an individual they feel exemplifies the things that Grandmaster Robert A. Trias represented. The All-American and Junior All-American Awards will also be

a competitor, spectator, or an official. There'll be stiff competition, camaraderie, techniques to be tried, demonstrations, outstanding food to be eaten, friendships to be made and renewed, and much, much more. We look forward to seeing you all at the 2003 USKA World Championships at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside!!

TOM PISUT: MEDIA DARLING AND MARTIAL ARTS ORIGINAL

By Rick Nathanson, 7th Dan

In the early 1970s, Tom Pisut and members of his family, including his wife and four children, were darlings of American television. Being a practitioner of karate was not in itself unusual, but to have an entire family of karate-ka was made-to-order eye candy for television of the time.

Tom Pisut

Mr. Pisut (pronounced "Pie-Suit") and members of his family appeared on "To Tell The Truth," "What's My Line," "The Mike Douglas Show," and a number of sports-related network specials. They did interviews, performed demonstrations and were karate's ambassadors of good.

After more than 45 years in the martial arts, Mr. Pisut, an 8th Dan, is still an ambassador of good will and a sought-after guest at USKA tournaments.

His first exposure to the martial arts was in 1958, while serving in the U.S. Marines at Camp Pendelton, California. There he studied under Frank Blair, who was teaching an amalgam of Shorei Ryu, Goju Ryu, Judo and Jujitsu.

Mr. Pisut became part of Cold War history when he and 50 of his fellow marines were taken to an open trench on a military testing range in Nevada. A hydrogen bomb was detonated about two miles from the trench. The marines then walked the bomb site for the next six hours. "I guess they just wanted to see the physical and

UNITED STATES KARATE ALLIANCE Tournament Schedule

USKA Point Year – 2003/2004 May 7, 2003 – May 6, 2004

Date	Event	Sanction	Location	Promoter	Phone	E-mail	Notes
July 19, 2003	USKA Tournament	Maximum Point	Phoenix, AZ	ASKA/John Pertuit	(480) 451-8892	richardpoage@cox.net	
July 10-13, 2003	USKA World Championships	Double Maximum Points	New Orleans, LA	Dr. David Jordan James H. Hawkes	(318) 257-2651 (505) 872-1091	Dlordan@woodard-latech.edu	*2004 Nationals Qualifier*
July 24-27, 2003	Bushikan Gasshuku Seminars	None	San Diego, CA	Franco Sangiorietti	(760) 744-3560	fs@bushikan.com	
July 26, 2003	USKA Tournament	Maximum Point	Santa Fe, NM	Steve Flores	(505) 473-1165	sflores@avocet.net	
August 1,2,2003	USKA Ohio Valley Championships	Maximum Point	Springfield, OH	Carl Davis	(937) 3240404	www.Davisdojo.com	*PKC Rules*
August 9, 2003	USKA Tournament Cancelled	Cancelled	Vail, CO	James Lee	(970) 328-4360	jameslee6a@hotmail.com	*Cancelled*
August 9, 2003	USKA Tournament	Maximum Point	Sedona, AZ	ASKA	(480) 451-8892	richardpoage@cox.net	
August 9, 2003	USKA Keiohu Classic	Maximum Point	Tioga, LA	Danny Gilliland/ Kirk Bullock	(318) 641-1002	dan@smildakarate.com	
August 15-17, 2003	IKKF Annual Training	None	Reading, PA	Bruce Heilman	(610) 921-3601	ikkf@ikkf.org	
August 23, 2003	USKA Battle of the South	Maximum Point	Mandeville, LA	Joe Dupaquier	(985) 626-7608	Jdupaquier@jumpkick.com	
August 29-31, 2003	USKA Nevada State Championship	Maximum Point +5	Las Vegas, NV	Berbie Diskinson	(702) 537-0725	Berbievegas@aol.com	*2004 Nationals Qualifier*
August 29—30, 2003	PKC Nationals	Double Maximum Points	Indianapolis, IN	Glenn Keeney	(765) 649-7780	pkc@pkcheadquarters.org	*2004 Nationals Qualifier*
September 13, 2003	USKA Tournament	Maximum Point	Phoenix, AZ	ASKA	(480) 451-8892	richardpoage@cox.net	
September 27, 2003	USKA Southwest Regionals	Maximum Point +10	Albuquerque, NM	James H. Hawkes	(505) 872-1091	mike@uska.net	*2004 Nationals Qualifier*
October 11, 2003	USKA Tournament	Maximum Point	Phoenix, AZ	ASKA	(480) 451-8892	richardpoage@cox.net	
October 11, 2003	USKA Jackson Parish Championships	Maximum Point	Ruston, LA	Buster Couten	(318) 257-2651	bscouten@hotmail.com	
October 25, 2003	USKA Louisiana State Championships	Maximum Point +5	Ruston, LA	Dr. David Jordan	(318) 257-2651	Dlordan@woodard-latech.edu	*2004 Nationals Qualifier*
November 1, 2003 Date Tentative	USKA New Mexico State Championships	Maximum Point +5	Belen, NM	Richard & Cindy Long	(505) 864-9568	rlong@swvp.com	*2004 Nationals Qualifier*
November 15, 2003	USKA Tournament	Maximum Point	Phoenix, AZ	ASKA	(480) 451-8892	richardpoage@cox.net	
November 16, 2003	USKA Northeast Regionals	Maximum Point +10	New Kensington, PA	Frank Caliguri	(724) 335-9300		*2004 National Qualifier*
November 2003	USKA California State Championships	Maximum Point +5	Riverside, CA	Maria Evans	(909) 425-8636	Maria.Evans@mbc.com	*2004 Nationals Qualifier*
November 29, 2003	USKA Colorado State Championships	Maximum Point +5	Vail, CO	James Lee	(970) 328-4360	jameslee6a@hotmail.com	*2004 Nationals Qualifier*
January 2004 Date to be Announced	USKA Battle of the Champions	Maximum Point	Mandeville, LA	Joe Dupaquier	(985) 626-9768	jdupaquier@jumpkick.com	

presented during this evening's ceremony.

The Awards Ceremony will be immediately followed by a social gathering, celebration dance, and slide show. This is a dressy event, so please dress appropriately. It's always fun to see everyone all dressed up for the special occasion.

John Pat Bullock will be defending his Black Belt Men's Kumite Title, and hoping to make this his fourth in a row. Mr. Bullock is a Tae Kwon Do stylist under the instruction of Dr. David Jordan of Louisiana. Keep a close eye on Mr. Bullock, especially during the finals.

Latoya Venson, a student of her father, John Venson of Chicago, IL, will be defending her Black Belt Women's Kumite Title. Keep an eye out for Ms. Venson, a Shorin Ryu stylist, during the finals for great Women's Kumite competition.

Latoya Venson

Joe Dupaquier, a student of Dr. David Jordan, who will be defending his Black Belt Kata Title. Last year, he had a very dynamic kata interpretation in the runoff with his teammate, John Pat Bullock. Keep an eye on the kata division for Mr. Dupaquier and his intensity.

Joe Dupaquier

Donnie Michael of Kokomo, IN won his third Black Belt Weapons Title last year. He will be looking to make this year his fourth. Watch for Mr. Michael, a student of Eddie Bethea, for his snap and power in the weapons division during finals.

Donnie Michael

There's something for everyone at the World Championships. Whether you're

ANNOUNCEMENTS

National Points Awards:
Each year at the USKA World Championships, an awards ceremony is held to honor the top ten in the National Points Competition. The top ten place winners receive a certificate, and the top three receive a trophy.
In the past, the National Points Awards could only be received at the awards ceremony. We have recently allowed award recipients to designate someone to receive their award for them if they were unable to attend the ceremony themselves.
However, if a recipient is unable to designate someone to pick up their award for them, they may contact Dr. David Jordan at 318-257-2651 to make arrangements to have their trophy shipped for a shipping and handling fee of $15.00 per trophy. Dr. Jordan must be contacted within two weeks of the World Championships in order to have their award shipped.

Rules & Referee Seminar and Score Keepers & Time Keepers Seminar:
The next Rules & Referee and Score Keepers & Time Keepers Seminar for certification will be held July 10, 2003 during the USKA World Championships in New Orleans, LA.

Hall of Fame Meeting:
The next Hall of Fame Meeting will be held July 11, 2003 during the USKA World Championships in New Orleans, LA.

Missing Champions:
We are looking for past USKA World Champions to help us celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the USKA World Championships next year. Please, if you know the whereabouts of any past champions, please let headquarters know, or ask them to call headquarters. We are hoping to have a great reunion in 2003 at the World Championships in New Orleans! We are also looking for memorabilia to display to help commemorate the occasion.

Reminder, Competitors:
If you compete in a multi-sanctioned Alliance tournament and you compete in a division with less than three people, you must notify headquarters in writing in order to have your points tabulated.

12 Months in Karate:
If a competitor has been in karate for 12 months or more, and is still competing in a beginning division, they may be required to move into the intermediate or advanced division by the State Representative, Regional Director, or the National Directors. That competitor may not return to the beginning division.

psychological effects of exposure," he said.

Nothing happened for five years, and then suddenly Mr. Pisut was struck with a mysterious condition that paralyzed his face, neck and shoulders. "I couldn't turn my head or even blink," he recalled. After two weeks in the hospital, the symptoms began to dissipate and eventually vanish. The military for years denied the hydrogen bomb event took place, but under former President Bill Clinton a public disclosure of the details was finally forced, Mr. Pisut said.

Mr. Pisut was born in Chicago but lived in Indiana before joining the military. When his military commitment was fulfilled, he returned to Indiana and began training in Shorei and Goju under Jerry Fastbender and Richard DeMerse. By the early 1960s, he had become a highly adept tournament competitor, and is among the privileged group of people who participated in the very first USKA World Championships held in Chicago in 1963.

During a tournament at New York's Madison Square Garden a few years later, Mr. Pisut was eliminated and sat down at a coffee stand at the rear of the exhibition hall. There, he had a chance meeting with the legendary Mas Oyama. "It was totally unexpected but certainly an honor," he said. The two talked about differences in karate training methods in America versus Japan and Okinawa. "In general, he was very complimentary about how Americans had taken to the martial arts."

Mr. Pisut continued to train under Mr. Fastbender and Mr. DeMerse, who presented him with his first black belt, but he also maintained his growing relationship with USKA and Grandmaster Robert Trias, who awarded Mr. Pisut many of his subsequent black belt rankings.

The emphasis in karate in those days was three-fold, Mr. Pisut explained: physical, mental and spiritual. And while most practitioners were strict about studying a single system, Mr. Pisut and his instructors saw the wisdom in incorporating desirable elements from other styles -- something that occurs more often today.

Tournaments were not emphasized, though participation in competition imparted some prestige to martial artists. "You could hone your art at tournaments and develop your technique against a variety of different competitors with different styles and different strengths, but a trophy was only good if you could put it in your back pocket and if somebody attacked you, you could pull it out and hit them with it."

Not that Mr. Pisut didn't win his fair share of trophies. In 1965, he won the first Midwestern Karate Championships and a year later the Southeastern Karate Championships. As a result of those and other achievements, Grandmaster Trias presented him with the Trias International Award. He was later inducted into the Trias International Society, whose membership represents the elite of the martial arts world.

Mr. Pisut worked in Indiana as an apprentice meat cutter, a construction worker and later a police officer. He moved to Florida about 1973, where he continued to work in law enforcement, teaching police self defense tactics and serving as a crime scene expert. He retired and moved to Tennessee in 1985, where he lives on 500 scenic acres halfway between Knoxville and Nashville. Although he operated dojos in Indiana and Florida, he is content these days with early morning outdoor solo workouts atop a plateau that he climbs near his home.

He has also weathered through a number of serious illnesses, or "opportunities," as he calls them. "The things in your life that you perceive as problems are not really that at all," he said. "The real problem is how you let those things affect you."

Among those "opportunities" were four heart attacks, quadruple bypass surgery, gall bladder surgery that left him with gangrene, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, and a bout of near-fatal medication reaction. On five occasions he died and was resuscitated.

Today, Mr. Pisut said, "I'm feeling so good I can't hardly stand it." He lost 30 pounds, began a regiment of herbal and homeopathic remedies, and has thrown away all or most of his medicines -- something he does NOT recommend for other people.

"There's a saying that I'm really fond of: 'Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, and today is a gift, which is why it's called the present.' Life is not a problem to be solved. It is a gift to be enjoyed."